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ST. FAITH'S AND AYLSHAM
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



1957

RURAL DISTRICT OF ST. FAITH'S AND AYLHAM

The
A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Irene B.M. Green
M.D., B.S.; D.P.H.)

together with

the

R E P O R T

of the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(H.S. Hawkins,
A.M.I.S.E., C.R.S.I.)

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health :

IRENE B.M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector, Surveyor
and Inspector under Petroleum Acts :

H.S. HAWKINS, A.M.I.S.E., C.R.S.I.

Deputy Senior Public Health Inspector :

W.R. FRYER, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspectors :

B.J. PALMER, CERT. S.I.B.

J. TOWNSEND, CERT. S.I.B.

E. PHILBIN, B.A., M.R.S.H.

Assistant Surveyor :

D. BRADSHAW, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.H.

Building Inspectors :

T. CONNEELY (from 16. 9.57)

L.R. HUMPHRIES (to 5. 4.57)

H. BOOTH (from 6. 6.57)

Surveying Assistant :

W.G. CHASTNEY, A.I.B.E.

Acting Senior Clerk :

P.J. CHAPMAN

Clerical Staff :

MRS. M.A. SMITH (to 7. 9.57)

R.N. BARRETT

I.A. KIDD

J.N. WREN

M.J. COPLAND (from 1. 3.57)

B.E. THWAITES (from 8. 8.57)

MISS M. HIMPLEMAN (from 16. 9.57)

The
A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(Irene B.M. Green, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.)
for the
RURAL DISTRICT OF ST. FAITH'S AND AYLSHAM,
NORFOLK,
for the Year ending 31st December, 1957.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1957.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	93,005
Population (Census 1931)	25,648
" " 1951)	37,623
" (Estimated mid-1957)	41,100
Number of structurally separate dwellings (1931 Census) ..	7,660
" " " " (1951 ") ..	10,798
" " " " (1957)	13,309
Rateable Value, 31st December 1957	£352,253
Estimated Net Produce of Penny Rate	£1,390

The estimated mid-year population was 41,100 an increase of 1,490 since 1956. As the excess of live births over deaths amounted to 139, the balance, 1,351, must have been due to immigration from other districts. There were 746 more separate dwellings than last year.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The weather of 1957 was mild when lower temperatures could have been expected and cold and wet when we tend to hope for clemency.

From January to April unseasonable warmth was the rule with some rain but few frosts. May was a disappointment with colder air and severe late frosts.

June was the crown of the year with glorious hot, sunny weather until the first week in July. After this, summer came to an end and the three holiday months of July, August and September were dull, wet and very cold.

In autumn, the genial weather returned and both October and November were unusually dry and warm. The year finished with a fairly cold December but both rain and sun were above the average for the month.

To sum up, the year's weather was on the whole quite out of step with the calendar and neither farmers nor holidaymakers found conditions to their taste.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Total Males Females				St. Faith's & Aylsham		England & Wales
					1956	1957	1957
LIVE BIRTHS							
Legitimate	645	330	315	} Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			
Illegitimate	25	10	15				
Total	670	340	330		14.29	16.3	16.1
STILL BIRTHS							
Legitimate	13	4	9	} Rate per 1,000 live and still births			
Illegitimate	1	-	1				
Total	14	4	10		25.81	20.8	22.4
DEATHS							
Total	531	263	268	} Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	12.9	13.0	11.5
INFANT DEATHS							
Legitimate	12	6	6	} Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births			
Illegitimate	-	-	-				
Total	12	6	6		17.67	17.8	23.0

The causes of death are given in the following table supplied by the Registrar General :-

	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	2	3
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	2	3
3. Syphilitic Disease	4	-	4

	Males	Females	Total
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.. .. .	-	-	-
8. Measles.. .. .	-	-	-
9. Other infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	1	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	5	8	13
11. Malignant Neoplasm of Lung or Bronchus	14	2	16
12. Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	-	8	8
13. Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	-	5	5
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	29	25	54
15. Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	-	2	2
16. Diabetes	1	-	1
17. Vascular lesions of Nervous System	33	58	91
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	51	28	79
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	9	14	23
20. Other Heart Disease	36	47	83
21. Other Circulatory Disease	2	9	11
22. Influenza	1	2	3
23. Pneumonia	14	17	31
24. Bronchitis	16	5	21
25. Other Disease of Respiratory System	4	1	5
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	3	5
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	3	1	4
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	5	-	5
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	1	-	1
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Disease	17	23	40
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	3	6
34. All Other Accidents	6	1	7
35. Suicide.. .. .	4	1	5
36. Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-
All Causes	263	268	531

DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS, 1957

Age Groups	Pre-School Under		School	Working Life				Pensionable age Over			Total
	1	1-4	5-14	15-29	30-39	40-49	50-65	66-75	76-85	85	
Totals	12	1	2	3	5	23	110	138	169	68	531

There were 531 deaths and 670 live births registered in 1957 compared with 511 deaths and 566 live births in 1956. Stillbirths amounted to 14 and there were 12 infant deaths. The birth rate has risen from 14.29 in 1956 to 16.3 in 1957 and death rate from 12.9 to 13.

After adjustment for age and sex, the local birth rate becomes 17.76, slightly above that for England and Wales (16.1) and the death rate 7.8 compared with the national figure of 11.5. The infant mortality rate has risen very slightly to 17.8 from the 1956 figure of 17.67, compared with the national rate of 23.

These statistics give an encouraging picture of a community to which infant recruits exceed casualties, the great majority of which occurred at advanced age.

Infant Deaths

Ages at Death (Infants under 1 year)

Ages	Males	Females	Total
1st day	2	3	5
1-3 days... ..	3	-	3
1st week... ..	1	1	2
1st month..	-	1	1
under 6 months.. ...	-	1	1
6 months to 1 year... ..	-	-	-
Totals	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>12</u>

Ten of these 12 infant deaths occurred in the first week of life, 5 of them on the first day. The other 2 deaths were at the ages of 1 month and 5 months respectively. No infant death was registered between the ages of 5 months and a year.

The causes of these deaths are summarised in the following table :-

<u>Inevitable</u>	-	Congenital defects	3
		Prematurity	5
<u>Preventable</u>	-	Infections	4

The 4 infant deaths classed above as preventable occurred at the ages of 2 days, 1 week, 1 month and 5 months respectively from broncho-pneumonia in 2 cases, encephalomyelitis in a third and neonatal infection in a cretin in the fourth case.

Prematurity was reported in 25 infants during the year, only 5 of whom did not survive the first 4 weeks of life and of these 5, there were 2 in which there was serious maternal illness in pregnancy, always a risk to the unborn child and in a third case, there was also a serious heart defect.

Apart, therefore, from the few avoidable fatal infections detailed above, general infant care appears to have been consistently good throughout the year and reflects great credit on all concerned, mothers, doctors and nurses.

Deaths between Ages of 1 and 40

There were 13 deaths (6 male and 7 female) registered between 1 and 40 years of age, 6 of these were due to accidents and 7 to diseases -

Accidents

- 1 Drowning (Male aged 15)
- 1 Shooting (Male aged 14)
- 2 Road (Females aged 4 and 9)
- 2 Flying (Males aged 21 and 23)

Unhappily, in 1957, accidents caused the deaths of 4 children of school age or under. Two girls of 4 and 9 respectively were killed on the roads and two boys in their teens lost their lives from drowning and shooting accidents. The total figures, however, are an improvement on 1956 when 11 lives were lost through accidents, all but one of these being adults.

Other Causes

All the other 7 deaths under 40 occurred over the age of 32. There were 3 males and 4 females in this group.

Heart disease	2 (Males 38,40)
Cancer	3 (Females 36,36,37)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1 (Female 33)
Cerebral arterial disease	1 (Male 39)

Apart from accidents no death occurred between the ages of 5 months and 33 years and in a population of over 40,000 this suggests a good standard of health in the younger section of it.

Malignant Disease (including Cancer)

Malignant disease (including Cancer) caused 91 deaths in 1957 compared with 76 in 1956. Lung cancer accounted for 17 of these cases, 14 males and 3 females. In 1956, there were 15 male deaths from cancer of the lung.

The ages at which the cancer was fatal to males is reviewed as under :-

Males (only)	40-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	Over 80	Total
Lung	2	3	7	2	-	14
Other sites	3	14	18	25	11	71

Although there was one less fatal case of lung cancer in males, it is worthy of note that 5 men under 60 had their working lives curtailed by this disease and 7 more died before the age of 70. The shortening of life is a high price to pay for the wholly unnecessary habit of smoking, known to be the commonest cause of lung cancer.

General

Heart and circulatory disease were again most frequent causes of death, with 79 deaths from coronary thrombosis compared with 57 in 1956 and 58 in 1955.

There were 6 deaths from tuberculosis, 3 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary but no other death from notifiable disease.

70.7% of all deaths were over the age of 65, 44.4% over 75 and 12.8% over 85.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	0-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total
Scarlet Fever	3	6	17	4	1	1	-	-	32
Measles	60	96	250	32	5	4	-	3	450
Whooping Cough	13	15	18	1	-	1	-	-	48
Pneumonia	-	-	3	-	-	2	2	6	13
Food Poisoning	1	3	3	2	8	4	4	2	27
Dysentery	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	4
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Poliomyelitis	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	6
Orphthalia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Totals	78	122	291	41	15	21	7	11	586

There were 586 cases of infectious disease (excluding tuberculosis) notified during the year compared with 679 in 1956. Although there was an increase in measles this year, whooping cough was only half as prevalent. The most striking reduction has been in dysentery, only 4 cases being notified this year compared with 101 in 1956. Scarlet Fever was a little more prevalent but otherwise the incidence of other diseases was similar to last year.

Scarlet Fever

There were 32 cases of scarlet fever notified during the year, the majority (22) being children of school age. The rest were all pre-school children except for one adult case over 25. No epidemics or localised outbreaks occurred. No complications were reported and there were no fatal cases.

Measles

Measles were rather more prevalent in 1957 and of the 450 cases notified the majority (285) were of school age, 156 were pre-school and 9 were adults. The parishes most affected were Rackheath, Hellesdon, Foulsham and Aylsham. It was mainly a summer epidemic in June, July and August but cases did occur in smaller numbers throughout the year.

No complications were reported and there were no deaths.

Whooping Cough

Only half the number of cases of whooping cough occurred compared with 1956 and of the total of 48 cases notified, 46 were under the age of 9. No complications or deaths were recorded.

Diphtheria

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year. It is now 7 years since a case occurred in this district.

Poliomyelitis

There were only 3 cases of poliomyelitis in 1957, all occurring in October and November. All were of the paralytic type but none of them died.

The first case was a boy at Marsham who was the brother of a school-child at a private school near Aylsham. No cases were reported from the school but a case did occur in a neighbouring parish in the next district about this time and children from this parish do attend this private school. The case was paralytic, chiefly affecting the neck muscles, prolonged treatment at an orthopaedic hospital was necessary and though recovery has been very good, some degree of permanent disability is likely to remain.

The second case was a Hellesdon housewife and mother of 3 children. This was a severe case of the bulbar type with respiratory difficulty. A good recovery was made, however, from the acute stage and treatment is continuing for the resultant disability of the arms. She is now able to carry out practically all her own domestic duties.

The third case was an adult male at Sprowston in whom the diagnosis was made retrospectively because of weakness of the arm muscles some weeks after a transitory illness not suspected of being poliomyelitis.

No source of infection could be discovered in any of these cases but precautionary measures were taken with contacts in cases 1 and 2. It was too late to take any action in regard to the third case.

Vaccination Against poliomyelitis

A larger programme of poliomyelitis vaccination was carried out in 1957 and children registered in 1956 were treated between Whitsun and the end of the Summer term. A total of 1,206 vaccinations were completed during the year and 4,045 applicants were still awaiting treatment on 31st December, 1957.

The age group for registration was extended to cover all children from 6 months to 15 years and for the first time included expectant mothers, general practitioners and their families and ambulance staff. The scheme was also extended so that family doctors could carry out the treatment, if this procedure was requested at the time of registration.

A further innovation announced by the Ministry of Health was the purchase of Salk vaccine from Canada and the United States to augment the supplies prepared by British firms, all such vaccine was to be re-tested for safety by British methods before release for use in this country. Unforeseen supply difficulties brought about the acceptance of untested Salk vaccine for direct issue in this country and this was available later in the year.

Dysentery

After the large epidemic of dysentery recorded in my 1956 Report it is gratifying to note that only 4 cases occurred in 1957. They were 3 children under 14 and the adult woman of 39. There appeared to be no connection between the cases.

Enteric Infections

No cases of typhoid or paratyphoid were notified during the year.

Food-Poisoning

27 cases of food-poisoning were notified which was slightly less than in 1956. A small outbreak in June amongst the staff of a hospital in the district was shortlived and consisted of 9 cases who all took ill the same day and recovered completely a day or so later. No bacteriological evidence of the cause of the outbreak was ever found but as there was no recurrence the food responsible must have been entirely consumed.

All the other cases were isolated incidents not connected apparently in any way. Where the causative agent was identified it was in most cases salmonella typhimurium. All but 4 cases occurred in the months of July and August.

Norfolk & Norwich Hospital Outbreak

In early July, just following the Royal Show, a large outbreak of food-poisoning occurred at the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital and was found to be due to salmonella typhimurium.

Until a satisfactory procedure could be adopted, patients were being discharged to all parts of the county without a preliminary test for infectivity. Thanks to the efficient co-operation of the Deputy Medical Officer of Health of Norwich, who was called in to advise on the outbreak, the names of these patients were sent to the districts concerned so that they could be promptly investigated. After a few days no patient was discharged until a test had been done in the hospital and this greatly eased the burden of the receiving authorities.

The whole incident however, caused a tremendous amount of extra work for the public health staff and a total of 63 patients were dealt with in this district, 5 of these cases were found to be positive and were treated at home until freedom from infection was established by a series of negative specimens. There were also 9 members of the hospital staff who lived in the district and 3 of these were found to be infected.

It says a great deal for the efficiency of the following-up arrangements that in spite of the number of people at risk, the infection was confined to the discharged patients and staff.

The outbreak shows how vital it is to have a consultant in preventive medicine on the staff of all hospitals to advise on the prevention of all types of transmissible disease. This is better than waiting for an outbreak to get out of hand before seeking expert advice and assistance. Members of the public health service, by their training and experience are fully equipped for this very specialised type of work.

Outbreak of Gastro-enteritis at a Childrens' Camp

Another incident occurred at a Childrens' Camp at Whitwell, where 80 children and staff were living under canvas. Several cases of diarrhoea and vomiting were reported amongst the first contingent of campers but in spite of intensive investigations, both chemical and bacteriological, no causative factor was found. As the second group of campers were not affected it was assumed that the infection was due to a virus causing epidemic vomiting probably brought by members of the first group and confined to it.

The opportunity was taken to advise on better methods of food handling, sanitary arrangements and washing facilities, as there is no more fertile soil for the spread of bowel infections than inefficiently controlled camping. The larger the group concerned, the more essential is a high standard of hygiene. It was hoped that the 1958 camp would show the results of our educational efforts.

TUBERCULOSIS

Mortality

Respiratory - Male	1
Female	<u>2</u>
Total	<u>3</u>

Non-Respiratory-Male	1
Female	<u>2</u>
Total	<u>3</u>

	Pulmonary	Rate	Non-Pulmonary	Rate
County of Norfolk	16	0.04	11	0.029
St. Faith's & Aylsham	3	0.075	3	0.075
England & Wales	4,250	0.095	534	0.012

There were 6 deaths registered as being due to tuberculosis, 3 pulmonary (male 65, females 33,60) and 3 non-pulmonary.

It will be seen from the table above that in pulmonary cases the district mortality rate is above that for the county but below that for England & Wales.

Incidence

Age Periods	<u>New Cases</u>			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1	1	-	-	-
1-4	-	-	-	-
5-14	-	1	-	1
15-24	1	3	-	1
25-34	-	1	-	-
35-44	1	3	-	-
45-54	1	1	-	-
55-64	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	1	-	-
Totals	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>

Number of cases on register at 31st December, 1957 :-

Type of case	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory	136	97	233
Non-Respiratory	21	39	60
Totals	<u>157</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>293</u>

There were 14 new cases of pulmonary type, 4 male and 10 female, this is 13 less than last year. The reduction is mainly in the male cases and the rate is now below that for the county as a whole. The younger age group of women continue to show the largest incidence.

Non-pulmonary disease was only notified in 2 cases compared with 5 in 1956, making the rate slightly above that for Norfolk :-

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		Rate		Rate
County Of Norfolk	133	0.35	22	0.057
St. Faith's & Aylsham	14	0.32	2	0.075

Treatment

The number of admissions to Sanatoria were as follows :-

	Male	Female	Total
1947	3	2	5
1948	3	3	6
1949	6	4	10
1950	9	9	18
1951	14	16	30
1952	19	23	42
1953	14	15	29
1954	13	7	20
1955	10	10	20
1956	16	12	28
1957	7	8	15

The average length of stay in hospital was 10 months.

As there were 14 new cases and 15 admissions to hospital it appears that the local provision continues to be adequate.

Diagnosis

New cases are found mainly through family doctors and routine mass radiography. During the year, the Mass Radiography Unit made visits to Aylsham and Foulsham.

The Aylsham sessions were held from 21st to 28th January when 1,623 people were x-rayed. This is the Unit's second visit to the town and the records show an increase of 328 over the first visit in 1954. Although an overall improvement in response, the figures are still too low particularly on the female side. The two groups who need extra encouragement to attend are the younger women and the older men.

The most important findings were 5 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis (3 in need of clinic observation and 2 inactive) and one cancer of the lung.

The Unit visited Foulsham for one day on 17th December and held a session lasting about 3 hours. This was a special request in view of the recent incidence of active tuberculosis amongst schoolchildren in the parish.

Great efforts were made with local publicity and the local doctor, chemist, leaders of religious bodies and employers of labour were all approached personally. The head teacher of the school was specially helpful and acted as voluntary appointments officer.

A total of 194 people offered themselves for x-ray and 12 were invited for further investigation. It is doubtful if the original source of local infection has been located but it was well worth the effort involved to bring the Unit facilities within easy reach of people living so far away from Norwich. It is hoped to arrange for another visit of rather longer duration soon.

In addition to these two special visits, the Unit held public sessions in Norwich from 11th June to 31st July and throughout the month of September. There was therefore ample opportunity during 1957 for all adult members of the community to have their chests x-rayed.

Foulsham School - Tuberculin Survey, March 1957

Foulsham school was the first one in this rural district to be offered tuberculin testing for all pupils. Owing to the enthusiastic co-operation of the head teacher and parents 100% accepted the test and apart from a few absentees, all were in fact tested.

7 positive reactors were discovered and one of these, an apparently healthy girl of 14, was found to have active pulmonary tuberculosis for which she received hospital treatment. Unfortunately, one of the absentees who missed the test, developed acute chest symptoms later in the year and was found to have a serious tuberculous lesion. The routine examination of his family contacts revealed several positive reactors and eventually 5 members of the family required hospital treatment. Poor home conditions and bad overcrowding were undoubtedly potent factors in this unfortunate happening. Re-housing of the family has been strongly urged on health grounds.

Prevention

The County Council scheme for B.C.G. Vaccination of school leavers was extended to cover all children over 14 whichever school they attended.

The results in 1957 were as follows :-

Total No. Eligible	288	
No. Tested	166	Acceptance rate 60% approx.
No. Positive	29	Positive rate 17% approx.
No. Vaccinated	117	

This acceptance rate is not as good as in previous years and it is to be hoped that in 1958 it will improve a great deal.

All contacts of known cases of tuberculosis continue to be tested and if found negative are offered B.C.G. vaccination at the Chest Clinic. This is rarely refused by the parents nowadays.

General Comment

The incidence and mortality of tuberculosis continue to decline and methods of prevention, diagnosis and treatment to improve. The occurrence of one heavily infected household living under poor and overcrowded conditions shows how important is a satisfactory home environment with good child care in preventing serious diseases such as tuberculosis.

The position in the district could be described as generally encouraging.

GENERAL SICKNESS

The weekly returns of new sickness claims from the Ministry of National Insurance give a good indication of epidemics usually of upper respiratory infection. A sudden rise in the number of claims tends to occur sometime in January or February and then to fall to lower levels for the rest of the year. 1957 was unique in that although there was a moderate rise in January, the main very high peak occurred in October, the number of claims rising to over 4 times the September level in 3 weeks, falling rapidly in November and rising again in December to about half the peak figure. This was due to the arrival of Asian Flu in this district. The disease was mild and shortlived and only a few pneumonia deaths were reported mainly in the elderly.

Prevention of Disease

Each year we increase the scope of our efforts to prevent disease and it is interesting to sum up from time to time how far we have got.

Smallpox was the first casualty - due to the compulsory vaccination scheme. The second World War brought protection against diphtheria, which is now practically unknown; and since the war whooping cough and tuberculosis have shown themselves, if not 100% preventable, at least to be less serious in vaccinated subjects.

Our most recent "syringe" weapon has been directed against poliomyelitis, the crippling effects of which have accumulated over the years to make up about 10% of our seriously disabled citizens. This is the first time we have had any weapon at all against this fairly rare but occasionally catastrophic disease. It has been most fatal and serious in recent years amongst young adults and the extension of the vaccination scheme to include all those under 25 would be greatly welcomed.

A lurking danger which has been known for years, but for some reason practically ignored, is tetanus, or lockjaw, which is much more common in the Eastern Counties than in the rest of the country. Its toll of life at all ages is not inconsiderable and the ease with which it can be prevented makes this rather difficult to understand. The Services have always insisted on preventive inoculation because of the hazards of active service but where tetanus spores abound, as they apparently do locally, any slight injury may cause a serious and perhaps fatal illness. Universal protection against tetanus should be the next step in preventive procedures.

It is important that the doctor dealing with a wound possibly infected with tetanus should know if the patient has ever been actively immunised against it as this affects the treatment of the case. In view of the shortness of people's memories and the chance that the patient may be either unconscious, or a young child, some form of unobtrusive "tetanus tattoo" might be devised, always located on the same site and recognisable throughout life. This would be invaluable to the doctor treating the case.

As to the future, the virus diseases are as yet least susceptible to active immunisation but research work is now being done into the possibility of attacking one virus with another and the results are awaited with great interest.

Apart from infectious disease, the curtailment of heavy smoking would certainly cut down the incidence of lung cancer and the most prevalent disease of all, dental decay, would be reduced by 60% if all drinking water contained an adequate amount of fluoride. Only the prejudice of ignorant laymen prevented the main water supply of the district being among the first in the country to be rendered adequate in this respect.

I wonder how long it will be before we look back on these objectors as we do on the diehards who would not believe that germs cause disease. When will the community come to deserve the discoveries of its great men?

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949

The following table shows the number of bulk samples found positive to tuberculosis in the last 6 years :-

1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952
2	2	2	3	3	1

Anthrax Order 1938

There was 1 confirmed case of anthrax notified in 1957 compared with 6 in 1956. This was a cow at Spixworth.

The following table shows the incidence of anthrax in the last 6 years :-

	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952
Cattle	1	5	2	-	-	8
Pigs	-	1	1	-	1	1

HOUSING

1957	1956	1955	1954
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Waiting List

Total Applications at 31st December	547	528	562	677
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Analysis of Waiting List

Applicants Sharing Accommodation	168	-	-	-
Others	379	-	-	-

		1957	1956	1955	1954
Analysis of Waiting List Contd.					
Size of family	Families with 2 or less children	486	474	513	616
	Families with 3 or more children	61	54	49	61
Type of Family	Agricultural workers	113	94	101	116
	Others	434	434	461	561

Local Authority Houses

Position at 31st December

Pre-war	564	564	564	564
Post-war	1,113	1,079	1,032	966
Total	<u>1,677</u>	<u>1,643</u>	<u>1,596</u>	<u>1,530</u>

Total Houses Completed during year

Local Authority Dwellings	34	47	66	84
Private Dwellings	607	432	353	283

There were 547 applicants for Council houses on the waiting list on 31st December, 1957 compared with 528 in 1956. The Council completed 34 new houses during the year and 607 were erected by private enterprise, the figures for 1956 being 47 and 432 respectively. In addition, a further 257 private houses were under construction at the end of the year.

Only 61 of the families waiting for Council houses had 3 or more children and 113 of the total were classed as agricultural workers.

Improvement of Older Houses

In 1957, 44 property owners applied for grants to improve sub-standard houses, 32 of these were granted, 8 refused, while 4 were under consideration at the end of the year. Work was completed in 25 cases.

This is rather more than in 1956 when 28 grants were approved and represents steady progress towards the modernisation of sound but older property. The total number of houses lacking modern amenities and fit for improvement has not been ascertained but at least 100 properties have been brought up-to-date since the first grants were made by the Council in 1950.

The grants made in 1957 amounted to £9,569. This is quite a modest sum to pay towards modern amenities for 32 households.

New Building

This year private building increased by nearly a third on the figures for 1956, 607 dwellings being completed during the year. In contrast, Council house building was slowed down even further and only 34 houses were constructed in the same period. This is the smallest number since 1944 just before the post-war housing programme first got under way.

Slum Clearance

The progress with slum clearance noted in my Report for 1956 continued in 1957 with increased momentum. The Sub-Committee surveyed 12 parishes during the year and inspected 183 properties.

In each of the parishes of Aylsham and Foulsham, clearance areas were confirmed comprising 19 and 25 properties respectively. In addition 21 previously condemned dwellings were demolished.

A total of 72 demolition orders were made and at the end of December, 135 condemned houses were still occupied, 35 were vacated during the year and there were 20 parishes still to be visited by the sub-committee.

It is now important that new building and the reconditioning of sound property should keep pace with the growing need of replacement, otherwise houses unfit for habitation may continue to be occupied for years to come.

General Comment

The great spurt in post-war Council building has died away although private construction increases every year. The waiting list for the Council houses has been little affected by the building of so many private dwellings and after showing signs of reasonable reduction is now increasing again. The cause of this new rise is undoubtedly the decision of the Council in 1956 to cease all building except for slum clearance replacement.

It was no doubt assumed that casual vacancies would be adequate to deal with the waiting list. As only 38 such vacancies occurred in 1957 and this is a fair average for recent years, it is obvious that most applicants for Council houses not in slum property have little or no chance of re-housing for many years.

What hope have applicants who live in "unhealthily full" houses, even if these cannot be classed as statutorily overcrowded? Such environment can be a serious menace to the health and safety of young children as was demonstrated in the case of a tuberculous family at Foulsham. Many other urgent medical grounds can be advanced in support of such applicants as the disabled, the chronically ill or blind, whose claims for consideration are very strong.

The ageing in particular, need timely assistance with their housing problems before the difficulties of their housekeeping overwhelm them and make the premature sacrifice of their independence inevitable.

Is it not time, now that the financial situation is easier, for the Council to re-consider its housing policy in the interests of those who have been waiting a long time for their turn to come and whose exemplary patience must be becoming exhausted?

To sum up, more houses are being built in the district than ever before but it is questionable if the housing needs of all the people are being satisfied in the process. I feel that early efforts should be made to assess the total need of the community and more active steps taken to build sufficient houses in the light of such assessment.

SOCIAL HEALTH

Welfare of the Elderly Local Authority Action

By the end of the year, the Council had erected a total of 264 brick bungalows suitable for old people and 90 pre-fabs. A rough estimate showed that about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the bungalows but only a few of the pre-fabs were actually let to elderly tenants.

There is quite a colony of old people at Lylsham besides those associated with the warden's house. Many elderly folk are happy to move from the smaller villages into the larger communities for companionship and communal interests but there are still those whose attachment to their native village is great and this should be borne in mind when the siting of future buildings is considered. Some of the sounder old property might well be reconditioned for this purpose in the more isolated small parishes.

Voluntary Action

No new clubs were opened during the year and the total for the district still numbers 21.

The times and places of their meeting are as follows :-

Aylsham	Friendship Club, Cawston Road	Friday	2.30 - 5	p.m.
Buxton & Lamas	Village Hall	Thursday (Alternate)	2.30 - 5	p.m.
Old Catton	Parish Hall	2nd Thursday in month	2.30 - 5	p.m.
Cawston	Memorial Institute	Friday	2.30 - 4.30	p.m.
Coltishall	Central Hall	Thursday	2.30 - 5	p.m.
Drayton	Village Hall	Wednesday (Alternate)	3 - 5	p.m.
St. Faith's	Church Hall	Wednesday	3 - 5	p.m.
Foulsham	Frost Hall	Friday	2.30 - 5	p.m.
Hainford	Village Hall	Tuesday	2.30 - 5	p.m.
Hellesdon	Speedway Clubroom	Friday	3 - 5	p.m.
Horsford	Village Hall	Thursday	2.30 - 5	p.m.
Marsham	Reading Room, High Street	Tuesday	2.45 - 5	p.m.
Oulton	Village Hall	Thursday (Alternate)	2.30 - 5	p.m.
Reepham	Own Club Room	Friday	2.30 - 5	p.m.
Ringland	Village Hall	2nd Tuesday in month	2.30 - 4	p.m.
Salhouse	Women's Institute Hut	Thursday (except 2nd Thursday in month)	2.30 - 5	p.m.
Spixworth	Social Hall	Wednesday (1st & 3rd in month except August)	2.30 - 5	p.m.
Sprowston	Club Room, Recreation Ground Road	Thursday	2.30 - 5	p.m.
Swannington	The Rectory	Thursday	2.30 - 4.30	p.m.
Gt. Witchingham	The Bridge Clubroom	4th Thursday in month	2.30 - 5	p.m.
Wroxham	Horse Shoes Hotel	Tuesday (Alternate)	2.30 - 5	p.m.

Recent exciting developments have been the acquisition of permanent premises by 3 clubs, Reepham, Aylsham and Sprowston. Reepham adapted an existing building while Aylsham and Sprowston have had ambitious schemes of new building which have been crowned with success.

Old age is now a state to be anticipated with pleasure in most parishes in the district.

Welfare of the Physically Handicapped

Voluntary Action

The District Committee of the Norfolk Association for the Care of the Handicapped, formed in 1956, continued its excellent work in 1957. Extended activities brought much interest and happiness to the 50 or so severely disabled of the district.

Very good parties were held in gardens during the summer and in halls and clubs during the winter, transport to and from their houses being provided by voluntary drivers. A very ambitious venture was a Broads trip on a motor launch when about 30 disabled people were given an experience which they could not have contemplated without this voluntary help.

A bulb growing competition was organised for the winter and fuschia plants were given out for cultivation during the summer. This is a continuing interest and creates a common bond between the cultivators.

Altogether, the work of this Committee has made a great deal of difference to the restricted lives of a small but often forgotten group of people with severe disablement, even enabling some of them to have a weeks holiday at Gorleston Holiday Camp in September.

Welfare of Newcomers

Hungarian Refugees

Following the arrival in this country of many thousands of Hungarian Refugees, a reception hostel was opened for them through the combined efforts of St. John and the Red Cross at Catton House, Old Catton. It was opened in January and finally closed in October and during that time a total of 46 people, comprising 23 men, 13 women and 10 children made their homes there while 8 more spent one or two nights in transit, making a total of 54.

Each family had separate quarters and cooking arrangements allocated to them, while a common room was available for communal activities. The nearest general practitioners served as family doctors and all the facilities of the Health Service were made available.

Efforts were made to carry out a medical inspection of all the children and immunisation was offered to those who had not been treated in Hungary. As it was known that tuberculosis was specially prevalent in their home country, all adults were given appointments for x-ray examination of the chest at the local clinic. Mothers of young babies were encouraged to attend the local Infant Welfare Centres and schoolchildren were accommodated at the nearest appropriate local schools.

Considering the harrowing experiences and privations of many of them, their physical condition was remarkably good, the only unfortunate exception being a young married woman who was found to have active pulmonary tuberculosis and had to be removed to a sanatorium. There she met a fellow Hungarian also with tuberculosis and it was hoped that each would settle better for having the others company. Unhappily, the consequences were quite different and both absconded from the hospital back to Catton House, where there were still a large group of children and young people in danger of being infected by them.

It was with great difficulty that they were finally persuaded to accept treatment in another hospital out of Norfolk. Their husbands and families left with them and this was a great relief to those in charge of the Hostel and to the Medical Officer of Health.

One baby was born to a mother while at the Hostel and thrived very well. Another expectant mother left Norwich just before her baby arrived.

Gradually some of the men found work either locally or in other parts of England and set up homes of their own. Several were accepted for emigration to Canada, Australia or New Zealand and by October the Hostel had ceased to serve any useful purpose and was finally closed.

Altogether the Hostel had provided an excellent temporary refuge and halfway house between the panic of the flight and the chaos of the reception camp and final rehabilitation as independent units in a new community. It was remarkable how a short spell in a safe, friendly, neutral environment turned frightened, demoralised people into active, cheerful, self-respecting citizens.

It was not a painless process, specially for the voluntary workers, to whom is due great credit for forbearance and continuing kindness in many extremely difficult human situations.

It was very regrettable that these refugees should have been let loose in the community without preliminary screening by chest x-ray examinations. Our experience shows what a potentially dangerous oversight this was on the part of the authorities responsible for their reception in this country. This Council sent a protest to the Ministry of Health at the time with a request that no further unscreened refugees should be sent to their district.

Apart from a few who came later on, either singly or in couples, to work on local farms, this was the end of the "immigration" and thanks are due to all the voluntary helpers, particularly the interpreters, who rallied round to help in this unforeseen and unique situation.

General Comment

A community which can find so many kindly volunteers to help the elderly, the disabled and the bewildered refugee is indeed rich in human material. The voluntary work described above shows intelligent kindness in action.

SEWERAGE

The main sewerage work in 1957 was in connection with the Eastern portion of Sprowston and at the end of the year nearly 90% of the houses to which the sewer was available had been connected to it.

A scheme for Western Hellesdon was approved by the County Council and awaited Ministry approval in 1958 and schemes were also being prepared for Upper Hellesdon, Old Catton and Western Sprowston though progress with these is dependant on the City's construction of further trunk sewers.

Reepham Sewerage Scheme was well advanced on 31st December and was expected to be in operation early in 1958.

Lenwade Village scheme was approved by the Ministry and tenders for Stage 1 were to be considered in January 1958.

A scheme was being prepared for the parishes of Belaugh, Coltishall, Horstead and Wroxham for early submission to the Ministry.

To sum up this activity, the fringe area is now covered by either actual works or paper schemes, Reepham is now sewered, Lenwade scheme is on paper and the Wroxham area is being considered.

WATER SUPPLY

Further progress was made during the year in the provision of mains water supply for the district.

The main project was the Western Area scheme to supply the parishes of Booton, Cawston, Reepham and Salle and by the end of the year the provision of headworks and main laying were nearing completion and the erection of the Salle water tower was also well advanced. It was expected that water from the scheme would be available early in 1958.

The water supply at Weston Longville is highly ferruginous and a tender for its treatment by aeration and filtration was accepted and this work was due to be carried out in 1958.

A scheme for the extension of existing local supplies to Oulton Street was authorised during the year to some 28 houses and the school.

Lastly, a report is being prepared on those parts of the district still without main supplies so that a scheme of priorities could be worked out.

COUNTY SERVICES

The following is a complete list of Infant Welfare Centres and distribution points for National Welfare Foods :-

COUNTY SERVICES

Parish	Where held	Day of Month	Time	Address from Where National Welfare Foods are obtainable. (Monday to Friday unless otherwise stated)
Aylsham	Ian Sears Clinic	First Friday every month	2 - 4	Mr. G.R. Oke, 14 Market Place, Messrs. Page Ltd. Market Place,
* Buxton	Reading Room	Second Tuesday every month	2 - 4	Mrs. Ayden, Mill Street, Nurse Woods, Brook Street,
* Cawston	Memorial Institute	First Tuesday every month	2 - 4	Post Office Stores,
* Coltishall	Church Room	First Wednesday every month	2 - 4	Messrs. Roys, Ltd. The Stores,
* Drayton	Village Hall	Last Monday every month	2 - 4	Mr. Squire, The Stores,
Felthorpe				Misses Carter & Potter, Post Office Stores,
* Foulsham	Nurse's House	Last Wednesday every month	2 - 4	Mr. Hamilton, The Stores, Nurse Bryan, Guist Road,
* Hainford	Parish Hall	First Thursday every month	2 - 4	Post Office Stores,
Hellesdon	Speedway Clubroom	First & Third Mondays every month	2 - 4	Mr. Youngman, 79, Reepham Road, Mr. Whightman, 165, Reepham Road, Mr. Palmer, County Stores, Drayton Wood Road,
Hevingham				Mr. Elridge, Town Street Tuesdays 2 - 5 p.m.
* Horsham St. Faith	Mission Room	Last Thursday every month.	2 - 4	Mr. Whitbread, The Stores, Newton St. Faith, Mrs. Williamson, Swan Street,

Parish	Where held	Day of Month	Time	Address from Where National Welfare Foods are obtainable. (Monday to Friday unless otherwise stated)
* Horsham St. Faith	R.A.F. Station (Attended by R.A.F. Medical Officer)	First & third Thursday every month	2 - 4	
Horsford	Parish Hall	Second Thursday every month	2 - 4	Mrs. Annison, The Stores, Mr. Gaze, Post Office,
Rackheath				
Reepham	Bircham Institute	Second Friday every month	2 - 4	Mr. Coe, Post Office Stores,
* Spixworth	Social Hall	Third Thursday every month	2 - 4	Mr. Grapes, 102, Crostwick Lane, Mrs. Giles, The Stores, Park Rd.,
Sprowston	St. Cuthbert's Church Hall	Every Friday	2 - 4	Mr. Grigg, 199, Wroxham Road
Swannington				Miss Parker, Post Office,
Taverham				Mrs. Buck, Post Office,
Wroxham	Church Hall	First Wednesday every other month alternating with Hoveton	2 - 4	Messrs. Roys, Ltd., Miss Woods, Bridge Stores.

* Denotes Centre where a Medical Officer attends only occasionally.

GENERAL WELFARE SERVICES

The County Welfare Officers continue to provide general services throughout the district.

In addition to the headquarters at :-

Local Health Office, Area 4,
Aspland Road,
Riverside Road,
Norwich

there is the following contact point where members of the public can obtain advice :-

Bircham Institute,
Reepham.

Wednesday afternoons, 3.30 - 4 p.m.

GENERAL SURVEY

The health of the district has been satisfactory during the year.

In spite of lack of summer sunshine an unusually large epidemic of influenza in October caused few complications and low mortality. Tuberculosis now plays a minor role in local statistics.

Deaths amongst infants and young people remained low and fatal accidents were many fewer than last year.

Voluntary work increased to include Hungarian refugees as well as continuing service for the elderly and disabled.

Poliomyelitis vaccination was offered to, and accepted by, a large number of those eligible.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I should like to express my gratitude to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their support during the year and my real appreciation of the work done by an ever-willing and very competent staff.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) IRENE B.M. GREEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

The
A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
(H.S. Hawkins
A.M.I.S.E., C.R.S.I.)
for the year 1957

I have the honour of presenting the following report.

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Inspections under the Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	319
Inspections under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	1,217
Inspections of Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	80
Visits to Infectious disease cases	...	...	...	...	250
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	12
Inspections of Dairies	...	...	...	...	27
Inspections of Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	1,787
Inspections of Food Premises	...	...	...	...	167
Inspections of Factories	...	...	...	...	53
Inspections in connection with Scavenging schemes	...	...	...	...	403
Visits in connection with sewer connections, Sewerage and Water supply	...	...	...	...	2,701
Visits for taking Samples of water	...	...	...	...	333
Inspections under Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	62
Other visits interviewing Owners, etc.	...	...	...	...	489
Inspections under Building Byelaws	...	...	...	...	5,250
Total					<u>13,150</u>

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS

The inspection of meat continued to be a heavy commitment and although there was a good improvement in the proportion of the total meat inspected, it still proved impossible to effect a hundred per cent inspection.

For comparison I set out the figures for 1957 with those for the previous year:-

	<u>Year 1957</u>	<u>Year 1956</u>
Total Number of carcasses slaughtered	90,774	90,481
Number of carcasses inspected	65,217	57,232
Number of carcasses not inspected	25,557	33,249
Weight of meat condemned	62 tons 8 cwts.	46 tons 13 cwts.
Number of overtime hours worked	1,304	1,289

It will be observed that the total number of carcasses slaughtered is almost equal, but in 1957 the number inspected was about 8,000 more than the previous year. Unfortunately the number of carcasses not inspected is still very high in spite of the additional effort made to reduce it.

As I have previously reported, at four of the fourteen slaughterhouses in the district a considerable quantity of meat is prepared for sale by wholesale, most of which is sent out of the district. It is interesting to examine the effect of this wholesale trade. According to figures defined by the Ministry the total number of carcasses slaughtered in the district would supply a population of 216,600 whereas the present estimated population of this district is 41,100. The carcasses inspected would supply a population of 162,800. These figures show that there is responsibility to inspect meat for a population $5\frac{1}{4}$ times that of this district and the carcasses inspected would serve a population $3\frac{3}{4}$ times that of the district. Meat inspection is therefore clearly a very heavy commitment and in spite of the considerable amount of work done it is a matter of concern to know the uninspected meat would supply a population of 61,450 which is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ times that for the district.

The following table gives particulars of the carcasses inspected and those found to be affected with disease:-

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed		8,640	13,241	7,883	61,010
Number inspected	5,982	262	3,790	6,769	48,468
<u>All diseases except</u>					
<u>Tuberculosis &</u>					
<u>Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	15	15	18	27	225
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2,192	57	17	343	7,119
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	36.89	27.48	.93	5.47	15.15

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	18	1	1	-	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	356	2	1	-	439
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.25	1.15	.053	-	.92

Cysticercosis

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	95	1	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	95	1	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

The table discloses the curious feature that the number of cows affected with tuberculosis was very low indeed. I would like to think this was a representative percentage for the whole country but undoubtedly it is a fortuitous proportion which is unlikely to be recorded again.

I must draw attention to the fact that ninety six carcasses were found to be affected with Cysticercosis which compares very unfavourably with the figure of fifty-four for the year 1956. Again while this proportion may not be representative for the whole country it indicates that the incidence of the disease is increasing at least in this area. The disease was practically never met with in this country before the war and was apparently introduced by refugees from the continent. It is a parasitic disease with a cycle in which tape worm in human beings is an essential medium. Eating infected meat, particularly if it is not completely cooked may produce a tapeworm in the consumer, and the voided eggs of the tapeworm taken in with food from an infected pasture or drinking water introduces the disease in the animal. There is therefore the possibility of an ever expanding circle and any increase in the incidence of this disease should be regarded with anything but equanimity. I consider the danger to the consumer is far greater than that from tuberculous meat and infection can cause a very distressing condition. It is not easy to detect the disease in a carcass and a complete and thorough examination would result in sufficient incisions being made as to mutilate and render unsaleable the various organs. By following the Ministry's recommendation as to inspection, the possibility of passing affected carcasses is reduced to a minimum but I think that possibility is not entirely removed. These circumstances raise

two factors, the first emphasises the need for inspection of all animals slaughtered, while the second points to the need for energetic measures to eliminate or at least control the incidence of the disease. Probably the major means of spreading the disease is by sewage polluting streams which are used for watering cattle. It would appear to be desirable for research to be made in the viability of the voided eggs of the tape worm and also to trace the human hosts.

FOOD PREMISES

The effort made to increase the percentage of meat inspected adversely affected the carrying out of some of the other duties, including the inspection of food premises and only 167 inspections were made of the 397 in the district. Very little was done in connection with the Food Hygiene Regulations but it is intended to carry out a much more intensive programme during 1958.

It was not necessary to carry out any special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food, but the following food was condemned during the year:-

303	Tins of Meat
105	Tins of Vegetables
200	Tins of Fruit
88	Tins of Milk
21	Tins of Fish
12	lbs. of Fish
1	Tin of Syrup
4	Packets of Salt
1	Bag of Flour
242	lbs. of Cheese
31	lbs. of Canned Gammon
56	lbs. of Pork
10	Tins of Soup

No educational activity such as lectures on food hygiene has been put into operation.

Condemned meat is disposed of by a fat rendering firm and all other food condemned is buried on the Council's refuse tip.

The following is the classification of the 397 food premises in the district:-

Grocers	26
Grocer & Greengrocers	134
Greengrocers	6
Confectioners	28
Wet Fish Shops	6
Fried Fish Shops	14
Wet & Fried Fish Shops	8
Butchers	31
Bakers	15
Public Houses	99
Restaurants etc	30

The premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act 1955 are as follows :-

For sale of Ice-cream	119
For preparation of Preserved	
Meat	26
Dairies	14

Only one person has been registered under the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment Etc.) Regulations 1947-52, but as far as I am aware he did not produce any during the year but dealt in pre-packed Ice-cream only.

There are 14 dairies registered under the Milk & Dairies Regulations and there are 34 distributors living in the district and 11 outside the district who are registered.

The following are the numbers of licences issued under the Milk Special Designations :-

PASTEURISED

(a) Dealers Licences	33
(b) Supplementary Licences	9

TUBERCULIN TESTED

(a) Dealers Licences	24
(b) Supplementary Licences	6

PASTEURISED TUBERCULIN TESTED

(a) Dealers Licences	11
(b) Supplementary Licences	4

There are 3 pasteurising plants in the district which are licensed by the County Council.

Slaughter of Animals Acts

During the year 58 licences were issued to slaughterers under the above Act. In addition three slaughtermen under training were issued with licences permitting them to slaughter only under the supervision of an experienced slaughterman.

H O U S I N G

Slum Clearance

During the year further progress was made in the Slum Clearance programme.

Clearance Orders were made and confirmed in respect of the 44 houses mentioned as being included in proposed Clearance Areas in my report for 1956.

The Sub-Committee inspected 183 houses in the district and devoted considerable time to discussing the condition of the houses with the respective owners, and giving careful consideration of any offers made as to the future use of the houses.

The following is a summary of the results of the work of the Sub-Committee :-

Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	72
Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
Number of houses in respect of which undertakings not to relet were accepted	16
Number of houses in respect of which undertakings to repair were accepted	11
Number of houses included in proposed Clearance Areas ...	53
Number of houses still under consideration at the end of the year	45
Number of houses vacated during the year	35
Number of houses demolished during the year	21

At the end of the year 135 condemned houses were still occupied.

Rent Act 1957

As a result of the Act coming into force the following applications were made and certificates and notices were issued:-

Number of Applications made by tenants for a Certificate of Disrepair (Form I)	12
Number of Notices sent by the Council to Landlords of the Council's proposal to issue a Certificate of Disrepair (Form J)	9
Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued (Form L) ..	5
Number of Applications received from Landlords for the Cancellation of the Certificates of Disrepair (Form M)	3
Number of Notices sent by the Council to tenants of their proposal to Cancel Certificate of Disrepair (Form N)	3

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During the year applications were received in respect of 44 houses and Improvement Grants amounting to £9,569 were promised in respect of 32 houses. In addition applications in respect of 5 other houses were approved in principle subject to submission of full details, and applications in respect of 4 others were still under consideration at the end of the year.

In the case of 8 houses grants could not be made as they did not comply with the required standard.

Works of improvement were completed at 25 houses during the year.

NEW HOUSES

During the year 642 houses including 35 Council houses were completed and at the end of the year 257 were in course of erection.

CARAVAN LICENCES

During the year 24 applications to station caravans were received and of these 18 licences were granted. 6 were refused.

STATUTORY NOTICES

It was necessary to serve only three Statutory Notices under the Housing Acts and two under the Public Health Acts but a considerable amount of work was carried out as a result of informal action.

SCAVENGING

House Refuse

At the commencement of the year the restriction on the consumption of petrol was still operating and in consequence the normal house refuse collection could not be carried out; and instead of weekly collections being made in 31 of the 48 parishes in the district, a fortnightly collection was made throughout the district. However, in February it was possible to revert to weekly collections in Hellesdon, Catton and Sprowston and central parts of Aylsham and Reepham, and in September weekly collections were recommenced in Cawston, Coltishall, Drayton, Horstead, Rackheath, Salhouse, Spixworth, Taverham and Wroxham. During October the weekly collection was extended to the remaining 17 parishes which formerly had a weekly collection except to the properties in the outlying parts of these parishes.

The total quantity of house refuse collected during the year was 34,576 cubic yards.

Salvage amounting to 68 tons was sold for £371. 8s. 9d.

Nightsoil

As mentioned in my report for 1956 the collection of Nightsoil was not reduced as a result of the restriction on petrol consumption, and the normal service which consists of weekly collection throughout the district, with a twice weekly collection where there is a special need, was maintained. However by re-organisation it was possible to effect economies resulting in a saving of 3 working days for one vehicle and 11 man-working days per week.

During the year 1,768 loads of approximately 500 gallons each were collected.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

An additional cesspool emptier was put into service at the beginning of the year, and there are now five vehicles operating. This service was first instituted in 1945 with one vehicle when 1,198 loads were removed from cesspools in the district and since then the demand for this service has steadily increased and the following are the figures for the last five years.

Year 1953	-	7,212 loads
1954	-	7,767
1955	-	8,507
1956	-	8,592
1957	-	9,184

These figures indicate the increasing demand for this service, and the increase in 1957 is in spite of a large number of houses in Sprowston being connected to the sewer. It is probable that the peak demand has not yet been reached and will not be diminished until the projected sewerage of Hellesdon is carried out.

WATER SUPPLY

Considerable progress was made on Stage 1 of the Western Area Water Supply scheme which will supply the parishes of Booton, Cawston, Reepham and Salle. By the end of the year practically all the mains were laid and the water tower and pump house were nearing completion.

The regular sampling of water from the undertakings operated by the Council was continued and in general the results were very satisfactory. Samples were also taken from private supplies as considered to be necessary. Altogether 333 samples were taken during the year.

SEWERAGE

The Sewerage scheme for the eastern part of Sprowston was completed and put into full operation during the early part of the year. It is gratifying to record that there was an immediate response by owners in connecting their properties to the sewers, and during the year 1,415 premises were connected in addition to the 226 which were connected before the end of the previous year. In addition, by arrangement, 27 properties within the Norwich City boundary were also connected.

At Reepham the work of laying sewers and constructing the sewage disposal works was nearing completion by the end of the year and the complete scheme was expected to be in operation early in 1958.

The Ministry gave approval for the first stage of the scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for the hamlet of Lenwade in the parish of Great Witchingham and it was anticipated work would be commenced early in 1958.

At Aylsham sewage disposal works a number of samples of the effluent were submitted for examination and the reports gave the following results :-

<u>Date taken</u>	<u>Parts per million</u>	
	<u>Biological Oxygen Demand</u>	<u>Suspended Solids</u>
31st January, 1957	23	22
19th March, 1957	8.8	16
7th May, 1957	25	26
15th June, 1957	13.8	23
8th July, 1957	18	9
12th August, 1957	11	4
11th September, 1957	11	12
12th November, 1957	15	9
24th December, 1957	27	19

These results are generally satisfactory in comparison with the Standard of 20 parts for Biological Oxygen Demand and 30 parts for Suspended Solids.

BUILDING BYELAWS & TOWN PLANNING APPROVAL

During the year 1,152 plans of proposed buildings were submitted. These varied between small private garages to layouts of Building Estates. The number of inspections of buildings under the Building Byelaws was 5,250. Mention has already been made that 607 private houses were completed during the year.

PETROL, ETC., STORAGE

During the year licences were issued as follows :-

Petrol Stores	158
Carbide Stores	4
Cellulose Stores	<u>6</u>
	<u>168</u>

62 Visits were made during the year, chiefly in respect of new and additional installations.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

During the year the Rat-catcher visited 4,615 premises and treated 705 premises where rats and mice were found. The number of reports received of infestation was 158. There was no need to take action under Statutory powers.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee and Medical Officer of Health for their support and sympathetic consideration extended throughout the year, and also to express my appreciation to all members of the staff for their conscientious assistance.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) H.S. HAWKINS.

